inhibit neural tumor cell growth in a subject.--

--47. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 46, wherein the neural tumor is a neurofibroma.--

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--48. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 46, wherein the neural tumor is a Schwann cell tumor.--

Remarks

Claims 1-40 were pending in the subject application. Applicants have hereinabove canceled claims 1-16, 18, 21 and 28-35 without prejudice or disclaimer to their right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a later-filed application, amended claims 17, 19-20, 22-27 and 36-40 and added new claims 41-48. Support for these amendments may be found inter alia in the specification as follows: claim 17: originally filed claim 17; page 24, lines 2-4 and 9-10; claim 19: originally filed claim 19; page 24, lines 2-4 and 9-10; claim 20: originally filed claim 20; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 21: originally filed claim 21; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 22: originally filed claim 22; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 23: originally filed claim 23; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 24: originally filed claim 24; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 25: originally filed claim 25; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 26: originally filed claim 26; claim 27: originally filed claim 27; claim 28: originally filed claim 28; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 29: originally filed claim 29; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 30: originally filed claim 30; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 31: originally filed claim 31; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 32: originally filed claim 32; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 33: originally filed claim 33; claim 34: originally filed claim 34; claim 36: originally filed claim 36; page 24, lines 2-4; claim 37: originally filed claim 37; claim 38: originally filed claim 38; claim 39: originally filed claim 39; claim 40: originally filed claim 40; claim 41: originally filed claims 28-32 and 40;

claim 42: originally filed claim 28; claim 43: originally filed claim 29; claim 44: originally filed claim 30; claim 45: originally filed claim 31; claim 46: originally filed claim 32; claim 47: originally filed claim 33; claim 48: originally filed claim 34. The remaining changes to the claims merely introduce minor grammatical and format changes. Accordingly, claims 17, 19-20, 22-27 and 36-48 involve no issue of new matter and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested such that claims 17, 19-20, 22-27 and 36-48 will be pending.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone either of them at the number provided below.

No fee, in addition to the $708.00 filing fee, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

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EXHIBIT A

--17. (Amended) [A purified vertebrate] An isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide comprising continuous amino acids, the sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.--

--19. (Amended) [A] An isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide [encoded by the isolated vertebrate nucleic acid molecule of claim 1] comprising continuous amino acids, the sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:9.--

--20. (Amended) A method for stimulating neural crest cell differentiation [in a culture] comprising [administering] contacting a neural crest cell with a composition, which composition comprises an amount of the [purified] isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19 effective to stimulate neural crest cell differentiation, so as to thereby stimulate neural crest cell differentiation.--

--22. (Amended) A method for regenerating nerve cells in a subject comprising administering to the subject a composition, which composition comprises an amount of the [purified] isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19 effective to regenerate nerve cells, so as to thereby regenerate nerve cells in the subject.--

--23. (Amended) A method for promoting bone growth in a subject comprising administering to the subject a composition, which composition comprises an amount of the [purified] isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19 effective to promote bone growth, so as to thereby promote bone growth in the subject.--

--24. (Amended) A method for promoting wound healing in a subject comprising administering to the subject a

composition, which composition comprises an amount of the [purified] isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19 effective to promote wound healing, so as to promote wound healing in the subject.--

--25. (Amended) A method for treating a neural tumor in a subject comprising administering to the subject a composition, which composition comprises an amount of the [purified] isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19 effective to inhibit [the] tumor cell growth, so as to thereby treat the neural tumor in the subject.--

--26. (Amended) [A] The method of claim 25, wherein the neural tumor is a neurofibroma.--

--27. (Amended) [A] The method of claim 25, wherein the neural tumor is a Schwann cell tumor.--

--36. (Amended) [Antibody] An antibody capable of specifically binding to the isolated dorsalin-1 polypeptide of claim 17 or 19.

--37. (Amended) [A] The antibody of claim 36, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody [of claim 36].

--38. (Amended) [An] The antibody of claim 36, wherein the antibody is capable of inhibiting the biological activity of dorsalin-1 polypeptide.--

--39. (Amended) A method for inhibiting the activity of dorsalin-1 polypeptide [activity] in a subject comprising administering to the subject an amount of the antibody of claim 38 effective to inhibit the the activity of dorsalin-1 [activity], so as to thereby inhibit the the acitivity of dorsalin-1 polypeptide.--

--40. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for inhibiting the activity of dorsalin-1 polypeptide [activity] comprising an amount of the antibody of claim 38 effective to inhibit the activity of dorsalin-1 polypeptide [activity] and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--